vertebrae;

said body having an outer surface that is substantially continuously tapered from said first end to said second end with external threads defined on said outer surface and extending substantially entirely along said length of said body.

145. The fusion device according to claim 144, wherein said body is formed of a porous biocompatible material to permit bone tissue ingrowth into the device.

146. The fusion device according to claim 145 wherein said material is a composite comprising an open-celled substrate having interconnected porosity, said substrate infiltrated with a metal.

147. The fusion device according to claim 146 wherein said substrate is a carbonaceous material.--

REMARKS

New claims 144-147 have been added to the application to further define Applicant's claimed invention. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.607(c), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner that new claims 144-147 correspond exactly or substantially to claims 1-4, respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 5,669,909 issued to Zdeblick on September 23, 1998.